

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /161 W
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2357

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T VIENNA 3094

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET REP APRIL
4, 1974

FOLLOWING IS REPORT OF SHORT BILATERAL BETWEEN US AND SOVIET
REPS HELD PRIOR TO THE PLENARY ON APRIL 4, 1974. CONVERSATION
WAS REPORTED ORALLY TO AHG BY US REP ON APRIL 4 AND THIS REPORT
DISTRIBUTED ON APRIL 5.

1. BEGIN TEXT. PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF PLENARY SESSION ON APRIL
4, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV ENGAGED US REP IN BRIEF CONVERSATION.
KHLESTOV ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION ON WHETHER INFORMAL
SESSION SHOULD TAKE PLACE APRIL 8. US REP REPLIED HE THOUGHT IT
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HAD BEEN GENERALLY AGREED THIS WOULD BE WORTHWHILE. BOTH

SIDES SHOULD DEFINE THE GROUND FORCE DEFINITIONS THEY USED. KHLESTOV SAID WOULD THE DISCUSSIONS BE LIMITED ONLY TO GROUND FORCES? WHAT ABOUT AIR DEFENSE? US REP SAID BOTH SIDES SHOULD STATE WHAT THEY INCLUDE IN THE GROUND FORCES AND WHAT THEY DO NOT INCLUDE AND WHY. KHLESTOV AGREED. HE ASKED WHETHER HE COULD BRING A MILITARY ADVISER, STATING HE WAS NOT EXPERT IN THIS FIELD. US REP SAID THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY BUT IF KHLESTOV WANTED TO BRING AN EXPERT HE WOULD PRESUMABLY BE FREE TO DO SO.

2. KHLESTOV REFERRED TO THE VALUE OF THE INFORMAL SESSIONS. HE SAID EAST FOR ITS PART NOW UNDERSTOOD THE WESTERN POSITION CONSIDERABLY BETTER AND ASSUMED THE REVERSE WAS TRUE. HE SAID SOVIETS REALLY DESIRED TO MOVE AHEAD IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE QUESTION WAS HOW THIS SHOULD BE DONE. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SOME COMPROMISES. WHAT DID US REP THINK WAS BEST WAY TO MOVE AHEAD? US REP SAID BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO FOLLOW AGREEMENT REACHED IN APRIL 1 INFORMAL SESSION TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE SOLUTION OF THE QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES WOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET. KHLESTOV ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CHANCE OF INCLUDING WESTERN EUROPEANS IN FIRST REDUCTIONS. US REP REPLIED THIS WAS NOT IN THE CARDS FOR REASONS ALREADY CLEARLY STATED. HOWEVER, WITH REGARD TO THE AGREED SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION, EAST COULD TELL WESTERN REPS WHAT PARTICULAR PROBLEMS THEY HAD WITH THE IDEA OF PHASING. ONE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON EFFORT TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE.

3. KHLESTOV SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE ANY FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FROM WEST PRIOR TO RECESS. END TEXT. HUMES

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